



U.S. Department of Justice

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September 19, 2003

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VANROY WENDALL BENJAMIN JR. INDICTED
ON JURY TAMPERING CHARGES**

United States Attorney David M. Nissman announced today that **VANROY WENDALL BENJAMIN, JR.** was indicted by a federal grand jury on Jury Tampering charges in violation of federal and territorial laws in connection with an August 28, 2003 throat cutting gesture he made towards the petit jury sitting to hear the case of United States and Government of the Virgin Islands v. George Osborne and Jay Watson, Criminal No. 2002- 125, in the District Court of the Virgin Islands, on St. Croix, which resulted in the Court declaring a mistrial in the case.

Attorney Nissman stated that “a clear and unambiguous message must be sent that the administration of justice will not be improperly influenced by anyone. Any attempts to improperly influence the judicial process will be immediately and thoroughly investigated by law enforcement and vigorously prosecuted.”

Count One of the indictment, the federal offense, carries a statutory maximum

penalty of twenty years imprisonment and a \$250,000. Count two, the territorial offense, carries a maximum statutory penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine.

Attorney Nissman commended the United States Marshal Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for their prompt and thorough investigation of this case. .

Attorney Nissman emphasized that the indictment is merely a formal charge, and this defendant, as are all defendants, is presumed to be innocent unless and until guilt is established at trial.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

DIVISION OF ST. CROIX

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA & the
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
Plaintiff,

v.

VANROY WENDALL BENJAMIN, JR.

Defendant.

CRIMINAL NO. 2003-00 **28**
Jury Tampering
18 U.S.C. § 1503
14 V.I.C. § 1501(4)

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury Charges:

COUNT 1

On or about August 28, 2003, at St. Croix, in the District of
the Virgin Islands, the defendant

VANROY WENDALL BENJAMIN, JR.

did corruptly threaten, influence, obstruct and impede the due
administration of justice in United States of America and the
Government of the Virgin Islands v. George Osborne and Jay Watson,
in Criminal No. 2002-125 in the District Court for the Virgin
Islands, by making a threatening gesture to wit: a slashing motion
with his hand across the neck, to the petit jury during the trial
of the case.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1503.

COUNT 2

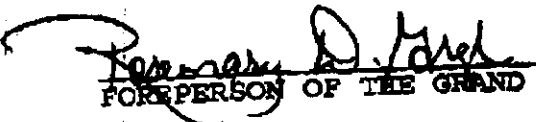
On or about August 28, 2003, on St. Croix in the District of the Virgin Islands, the defendant

VANROY WENDALL BENJAMIN, JR.

did corruptly attempt to influence a juror in respect to a decision of a cause and proceeding to wit: United States of America and the Government of the Virgin Islands v. George Osborne and Jay Watson, Criminal No. 2002-125, that was pending before the District Court of the Virgin Islands by means of a threat and intimidation by making a slashing and cutting motion across his neck.

In violation of Title 14, Virgin Islands Code, Section 1501(4).

A TRUE BILL:


FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JURY

DAVID M. NISSMAN
United States Attorney


ST. CLAIR THEODORE
Assistant United States Attorney

District of the Virgin Islands: September 16, 2003.
Returned into the District Court by Grand Jurors and filed.


JEFFREY L. RESNICK
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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